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Wallingford in 1811-12

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Connecticut Towns

# Wallingford

*in* 1811-12

By  
George Washington Stanley

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The Acorn Club of Connecticut  
1961

WALLINGFORD  
CONNECTICUT

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## Biographical Note

GEORGE WASHINGTON STANLEY, *only son of Oliver and Mary (Chauncey) Stanley, of Wallingford, was born there June 25, 1775 and married Clarissa Nichols of Newtown. A graduate of Yale College in 1793, he was Judge of the Probate Court in Meriden and was prominent in public affairs there as well as in Middletown, where he lived after 1810. Later he moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where he died at an advanced age.*

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# Wallingford *in* 1811-12

Wallingford August 1. 1811

Sir

In compliance with the request of the Connecticut Academy of Arts & Sciences . . . by Letter dated Jan<sup>y</sup> 1. 1800; the following information is communicated respecting the Town of Wallingford—

Article 1st—The antient Town of Wallingford included the present town of that name, and the towns of Cheshire and Meriden—The length Easterly & Westerly was about 14 miles, and the breadth about 12 miles;—bounded Easterly on Branford & Middletown; Northerly, on Hartford and Farmington; Westerly on Waterbury, & Southerly on New Haven—In the Town Records is recorded an Instrument under date 31st 11mo 1669 signed by seven persons as a Committee appointed by New Haven to conduct the settlement of the “Village” then so called; by which the Committee consent that the village be settled according to propositions which had before been made to them by sundry persons—2d they provide “for the safety & well being of church affairs,” by ordering that the first undertakers of said settlement, and the successive planters, before admitted, shall subscribe a written engagement not to disturb the Church when settled, in choice of a Minister, nor to refuse or withdraw due maintenance from such ministry; “and untill such Church be settled, to submit to such orders as said Committee shall make for a godly ministry to dispense the word of God among them—3d—that the Committee to be appointed to manage the settlement of the plantation, in receiving of planters shall have due respect to New Haven persons, being fit, & offering themselves, so far as should consist with the good of the place, and capacity thereof—4th that the said Company & all others admitted planters among them, shall enjoy their accommodations & lands without payment of purchase money to New Haven, to themselves, their heirs, successors and assigns forever, so far as

concerns New Haven town's purchase within the Village bounds—Lastly; they nominate Samuel Street, John Moss, John Brocket and Abraham Doolittle to be a Committee to manage all plantation affairs within the Village; to dispose of and distribute the Lands in such way as should be equal, & consistent with the condition of the Planters; to provide for the regular dispensation of the word of God therein; and lastly they were impowred to add to their number such fit persons as might from time to time appear expedient”—

Agreeable to the provisions of this Instrument, 38 persons being accepted by the New Haven Committee, subscribed a written engagement, thereby solemnly promising not to disturb the Church when settled, in choice of a minister; in any of their rights liberties or administrations, or in the dispensation of the word of God; and not to refuse or withdraw due maintenance from such minister; they also engage themselves peaceably to submit to such settlement, and civil order as the New Haven Committee should direct among them, either by themselves, or by some others as a Committee by them appointed, untill the said Village should come to be an orderly establishment within itself; and Lastly they engage personally to settle upon the place by May then next, if Gods providence inevitably hinder not”—

The settlement of the Village probably commenced in the Spring 1670—At the Court of Election held at Hartford May 12th 1670, upon application, the bounds of the Village were stated, and granted to extend from Wharton's brook so called to the Northward 10 miles & from the said brook Southward to Branford bounds; & from the New Haven East river so called 5 miles East, & 5 miles West; with this provision, that the settlement should be carried on without any relation, or subordination to any other town; and also that this Grant should not prejudice any prior grants, or extend Northward further than where the old road from Hartford to New Haven then crossed Pilgrims harbour—it was also ordered that the Village or plantation should be called Wallingford—About the same time, the Committee ordered that no person who had lands granted them within



said town should sell, let, give, or any way alienate them to any other, so that the purchaser might become an inhabitant without the consent and approbation of the Committee during the time of their trust; or afterwards without the consent & approbation of the inhabitants of said town—In distributing the lands, House lots of six acres each were by the Committee laid out on the Hill, & drawn for by the proprietors—to each house lot was annexed a certain proportion of meadow Land on each side of the River—The out lands were laid out & distributed as convenience required—

At a town Meeting Sept. 25. 1671 a rate was laid to defray the charges of the Ministry, which was to be paid by every planter in due proportion, in good merchantable Pipe-staves, or other good pay—

In May 1671 Wallingford was annexed to the County of New Haven; & exempted for three years, from County rates—April 30th 1672 John Moss sen<sup>r</sup> & John Brockett were chosen Deputies for the next Court of Election, who appear to be the first sent from Wallingford—At a General Court May 9th 1672, it was granted that Wallingford should extend their bounds to the Westward of their former grant, two miles, their whole breadth with a provision in favor of prior grants—The addition to the breadth of the town of 3 miles from Pilgrims harbour Northward was also made by the government at a subsequent period—

May 27th 1762 the Committee resigned their trust into the hands of the Inhabitants, who thereupon mutually made & subscribed an Instrument, in which after reciting the former instrument, & declaring their assent to the same so far as related to Church affairs, and that the same should be renewed & Continue in force; they say “That apprehending that through the good hand of God, towards us, the place is come to be an orderly establishment within itself according to the true intent and meaning of that article,” they agree and order that a standing committee be appointed whose assent jointly with that of the inhabitants of the town, should be necessary to admit any person as a free planter therein, “that so as much as in us lies, troublesome and

ill affected persons may be kept off from us, our peace the better secured, and that according to our unfeigned and hearty desire we may live in love and peace, and enjoy the presence of the God of love & peace amongst us"—In January 1672 pursuant to a vote in Town Meeting, a mode of distribution of lands in respect to quantity was reported by a Committee for that purpose, by which the planters then in being '42 in number were divided into three classes or ranks; and the lowest rank to have half as much land as the highest rank; and the second rank three fourths as much as the highest; & by this Rule all rates were to be laid & collected—In June 1673 the quantity of land to each class was limited as follows; to the lowest rank 40 acres; middle 60; highest 80—About the same time an order of the town was made that non residents not paying their taxes within one month after demanded should be liable to forfeit their lots; & many instances are recorded where the lots of persons not possessing them are granted to others—It was also ordered that no man should have power to sell his accommodations to another man, & leave the town, till he had dwelt upon it 3 years, & then might sell or alienate to such as the Town should approve of—In April 1673 M<sup>r</sup> Samuel Street removed to Wallingford from New Haven, & settled in the ministry; and in the summer following the town erected a House for his accommodation—to defray this & other town Charges a Rate was laid in Nov. 1673 of £4. on the highest rank £3 on the second & 40/ on the lowest—At this time, it appears that the Carrying between Wallingford & New Haven was by boats by the River—In 1674 a Mill was erected by the Town—

In the same year Nathaniel White & John Wilford who were appointed & authorized by the General Court Oct. 12. 1671 to lay out the bounds of Wallingford according to the grant of the Court made the following Report—towit—We whose names are underwritten being appointed to lay out the bounds of Wallingford according to the honorable General Court's grant; We did run from the East River commonly called New Haven river upon an East & by South line 5 miles, very near Pishaty Pauge Ponds, and from



thence upon a north and by East line, till it meet with Middletown west bounds; and on the West side New Haven river upon a West & by North line 7 miles—as witness our hands this 6th day of Nov. 1674

JOHN WILFORD  
NATHANIEL WHITE”

In April 1674 the Town chose eight men as Guard for the sabbath; & in August 1675 ordered that two houses be fortified for security of themselves & goods against the Indians, that every planter begin the work of fortifying the next day, & continue till the same should be completed; that every man should bring his arms and ammunition compleat on the sabbath day, and that Watch and Ward be kept by the whole town in rotation, day and night till further orders—

The ordinary mode of convening public Meetings on the Sabbath as well as at other times was by beating the Drum—In October 1676 the town agreed to build a Meeting house 34 by 30 feet; in 1679 annulled this vote & agreed to build a house 28 by 24 feet; in 1699 voted to erect an addition to the Meetinghouse 50 by 26 feet—The present Meetinghouse of the First Society was compleated in the year 1720 except the Steeple which was added in 1738.—

In 1678 a School was kept & the expence defrayed by the Town—In Nov. 1680 the town agreed to pay from time to time two thirds of the expence of supporting a School—Instructors wages were 40/ p<sup>r</sup> month—

At a Town Meeting upon the 15th day of the 2d Month 1675; “it was actually & unanimously conceded, if it be the will of God, that there shall be a Church of Christ gathered and to walk according to the Congregational way,” and the management thereof was committed to thirteen persons as named, “that if it should be the will of God to incline their hearts, so many of them as should be a competent number for that purpose, might in his time lay the foundation”—

Mr Streets salary in 1675 was £50 for the year; in 1679—£90; in 1691—£70; in 1695 £100 Wood included; in 1698 £90 exclusive of Wood—

In February 1679 liberty was obtained from New Haven to build a Bridge across the East river at the Pines so called at the expence of the Town of Wallingford—

In April 1681 an attack from the Indians was again apprehended; & the town voted to fortify Mr Street's house and to make the fort so large as to contain the whole town and to repair the old forts—in the same year a rate of £10 was laid to procure the Coats for the purchase of the Indians, & a Committee of five persons was chosen to negotiate with the Indians in behalf of the Town for the purchase of the claims which they pretended to have to any of the lands within the bounds of the Town as granted by the General Court—Agreeably to their instructions, this Committee obtained an ample conveyance legally executed by nine Indians of all the lands within Wallingford bounds extending “from Wharton's brook to Pilgrims harbour eight miles, & from New Haven East river Eastward five miles & from said River Westward seven miles, being in length 12 large miles;” also a Release from Major John Tallcott of a certain part of the lands within the aforesaid bounds which had before been mortgaged to him by one Adam Puit—And on the 28th day of July 1685 they obtained a further conveyance legally executed by three Indians—By these several conveyances the Grantors sell & convey to the inhabitants of Wallingford in Fee all their Right to the above described lands, and covenant that they are the proprietors; with several other covenants—The town also gave Major Tallcott £5 for his trouble with the Indians in procuring a settlement of the Indian purchase—the New Haven planters had also in the years 1638 & 1645 purchased of the Indians their right in Quinnipiack which included the quater part of the town of Wallingford—

1684 Jan<sup>y</sup>. 26 “The town shewing their respect to those that were employed in the Country service in the wars,” granted to Lieutenant Merriman 10 acres, and to the

brothers of Nathaniel Merriman that was slain at the Fort fight 10 acres, and to the rest of them 5 acres a piece"—

1686 An order was made by the town, that no person should be received as a planter unless he put in as a consideration a suitable estate which should not be less than £40 nor more than £100. & that his right in all divisions of Lands should be in proportion to the estate so put in; in the same year a large division was made—In 1684 Rates were levied on the pound according to each man's estate—In 1691 the number of votes in Town Meeting was 62—

In 1730 the number of freemen in freemens Meeting 315—

Whole number of persons in 1690 was 400; in 1709—700; in 1723—1100—In 1774 of whites 4777 blacks 138 Total 4915—

In 1723 a Society was formed in the Western part of the town by the name of New Cheshire consisting of about 35 families—A meetinghouse was erected; a Church gathered; & the Reverend Samuel Hall was ordained first pastor in said Society, in the next year 1724—Mr Hall was ordained Decem<sup>r</sup> 9th 1724 & died February 26. 1776—Reverend John Foot the present pastor, was ordained colleague with Mr Hall March 11th 1767—Their present meetinghouse was built about 1739—This Society was incorporated a Town by the name of Cheshire in May—1780—The Society of Meriden consisting of 30 or 40 families was formed in the Northern part of the Town in 1725—Their first Meetinghouse was erected 1727—Reverend Theophilus Hall was ordained their pastor & a Church was gathered in October 1728 (1729, see Meriden Ch. records) [added in a different hand]—Mr Hall died March 25th 1767 in the 60th year of his age—Reverend John Hubbard was ordained June 22d 1769 & died November 18th 1786—Reverend John Willard was ordained May 24th 1787 & dismissed May 11. 1802—Reverend Erastus Ripley the present pastor was ordained February 9th 1803—

In May 1806 the Society of Meriden was incorporated a town by the same name—



The present extent of the town of Wallingford is from Branford & Durham on the East side, Westerly to Cheshire about 8 miles; & from North Haven on the South to Meriden on the North about 6 miles—A small district in the south-east part of the Town is annexed to Northford Society—The residue of the Town constitutes one School Society divided into districts of which nine are complete, having in each a Schoolhouse; & parts of two others of which one is united with a part of Northford, and the other with a part of Cheshire School society—

The Inhabitants are divided into four ecclesiastical Societies, of which two are denominated Presbyterian; one Episcopal & one Baptist—By the Census of 1810 there are in said town 2325 inhabitants of which 1152 are white males; 1147 white females; 22 of color & 4 slaves—The number of Foreigners does not exceed ten; they are natives of England & Ireland—

Articles 3d & 4th The face of the Country in regard to Hills, vallies & plains, may be divided into four parts, extending Northerly & Southerly—The first division beginning on the east side in width about three and an half miles is hilly & uneven; soil a mixture of clay, gravel, & loam; excellent for grain & pasture; affords considerable crops of Hay, Indian corn, & broomcorn, & abundance of fruit—This division includes part of a Pond, in length about 2 miles North & South, & in breadth about 200 rods, which abounds with fish of various Kinds, called paug pond, antiently Pishata Paug pond—It is also watered by a small stream called Muddy river, which running from Northeast to Southwest, joins New Haven East river about 6 miles from the Sound, having through nearly its whole length a considerable interval of meadow—In this division may be included the adjoining tract of Country extending Westerly to the plains, & lying between Meriden on the North & the second division or Town Hill on the South—

The second division comprising the Town Hill and the valley on the East side, is about half a mile in width & about two miles in length—This Hill is a very gradual elevation



above the valley on the East, & the Plains on the West; & viewed from the more elevated country, appears low & almost level—A branch of Wharton's brook runs on the East side, through a valuable tract of mowing land; and the soil of the Hill is of a superior quality, being chiefly loam and sand—The form & elevation of the Hill are very uniform—At the foot of the Hill on the East; & near the most elevated part; two streets parallell with each other, and nearly strait extend Northerly & Southerly about two miles—The country road on the plains is parallell to the above; and these being intersected at right angles by four streets running East & West, form six squares about 100 rods each in length—

The third division comprises the plains, & Meadows on each side of the East River, in width about half a mile & extending Northerly & Southerly through the town—This River is about 50 feet wide; distant from the centre of the town about one mile, & well calculated for all uses which require a regular & plentiful supply of water—Shad are caught below Doolittles mills—This stream has its source in a pond in Farmington—Wharton's brook bounds this division on the South; & is in part the boundary line between Wallingford & North Haven—The Plains are easily tilled, & with proper cultivation, afford a more certain profit, than many soils which bear a higher price—Their usual crop is Rye; of which the quality is superior to the produce of most other soils—Good crops of Indian corn are raised by manuring—This soil is capable of very great improvement—The Meadows on the River are extensive, & being frequently overflowed, are productive & valuable—

The fourth division is about three & an half miles in width, extending from the Meadows on the River to Cheshire line—is watered by several small streams, & is more uneven & hilly than the eastern part of the Town & generally less valuable—The soil is more clayey moist & cold; the productions are similar—There is no mountain in the town, except part of Beseek mountain [Mattabesick] which is the boundary on the East—No part is very stoney, and a large proportion is suitable for plowing & mowing—The relative

proportion of pasture land is not large—The whole is well supplied with water by streams, springs & wells—

Articles 6 & 7—Timber & Wood are found in all parts of the Town; but principally in the eastern, northern & Western, consisting of the different species of oak, chesnut, walnut, butternut, maple, whitewood, beach, elm, buttonwood &c. The original growth is not materially varied as to the species by cutting—Timber, that of large size excepted & wood are plenty; & within the last 15 years the quantity is supposed not to have decreased—This is attributed to the preservation of the sprouts by enclosing wood Lands, and a more strict economy in the consumption of fuel by the use of stoves; and the improved construction of fireplaces as to their size—Considerable quantities of wood & timber are carried to New Haven—The price is therefore in some degree regulated by the distance from this market, which is from 10 to 18 miles—The price of wood delivered in town is generally about 3½ or 4 dollars a Cord for first quality as walnut, maple &c. and 3 dollars for oak &c—Timber for building is bought, standing at 4 Cents p<sup>r</sup> foot; delivered in town hewed & framed at \$10 p<sup>r</sup> Ton—The demand for timber is small—Peat is found in various parts of the town, but not used—The sugar Maple grows here in considerable abundance; but the price of fuel; & expence of manufacturing sugar render it unprofitable,—except for its wood.

Article 8th Three Grist Mills having 7 run of stones one Sawmill; two fulling Mills & 6 Carding machines are situated on East River; 2 Grist Mills having 4 run of stones & four Sawmills are situated on smaller streams in different parts of the town; chiefly employed in customers work—In dry seasons, grain is frequently carried a distance of 20 miles to the mills on the river—

Article 14th There is no leased land within the town—Emigrations have been for 70 years past very great—In 1770 the number within the 30 years next preceding, with their encrease was computed to be equal to the number of inhabitants then in the whole town; and of these the greater part were from the First Society—Since that time, the emi-

grations have at least equalled the natural encrease of population—No conviction for a capital crime is found—One instance of suicide within 20 years has occurred—The subject was a native of the town—

The first pleasure carriage, was a one horse chaise owned by Macork Ward Esquire, & first used about 1755—The circumference of the wheels was  $16\frac{1}{2}$  feet—By means of machinery and a bell attached to the wheel and put in motion by the progress of the vehicle, the rider was notified of the distance, & degree of rapidity with which he travelled, by the sound of the bell at the end of every mile, and an Index corresponding with the motion—Carriages for the conveyance of persons were very little in use before about 1780—Their number as entered in the List for August 20. 1810 was 111—Waggons are not numerous, but the number is encreasing—

Article 16th—State of manufactures as returned with the last Census to the Secretary of State is as follows—

Tanneries 6 manufacturing 690 sides	
leather @ \$3	\$2,070.00
& 242 calfskins @ 2.50	605.00
Distilleries 5—distilling from Cyder	
7500 gallons spirits @ .50	3,750.00
Fulling Mills 2—dressing & fulling	
7500 y <sup>ds</sup> Cloth & dressing without fulling 3500 yards ———	
Carding Machines going by water—6	
which card 18000 lbs wool—	
Corn brooms—10,000 dozen manufactured annually @ 1.50—	15,000
Looms—145 used in families, weaving	
36,459 y <sup>ds</sup> linnen & cotton cloth @ 34 cents p y <sup>d</sup> — —	12,396.06
& 12153 y <sup>ds</sup> woollen cloth @ 75 cents p y <sup>d</sup>	9,114.75
Tin factory—One manufacturing tin	
Ware worth	9,260.00
Article 19th Shipbuilding & navigation may not be	



looked for in Wallingford; but it may not be unworthy of attention, that in the early settlement of the Town, the transportation of property to & from New Haven, was chiefly by boats on East river; & that about 40 years since a vessel of considerable burthen was built opposite the town on the same river—The substitution of bridges & Milldams for shipbuilding & navigation are probably beneficial alterations—

Article 20th The Roads have been much improved within the last 10 years, by constructing them, in the form of the Turnpikes—They are indifferently kept in repair by a tax of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  Cents on the dollar payable in labor annually—There are four Bridges across East river, not remarkable for elegance or safety—The expence of repairs of these, and all others in ordinary times is not large, & is defrayed by the town.

Article 24th There are 2 places of public worship belonging to Presbyterians; one to Episcopalians & one to Baptists—The first presbyterian Society was established at the settlement of the town in 1670—M<sup>r</sup> Samuel Street took the pastoral care of the Society in the year 1672—He died January 16th 1717 aged 82—Reverend Samuel Whittelsey was ordained colleague pastor with M<sup>r</sup> Street in 1710 & died April 15th 1752 in the 67th year of his age—Reverend James Dana was ordained October 12th 1758; and on account of his indisposition, relinquished his salary; & Reverend James Noyes the present pastor was ordained as his colleague May 4. 1785—Doctor Dana having recovered his health, removed from the Society without a formal dismissal about the year 1789—

About the year 1735 eight or ten families denominating themselves Baptists, appeared under the guidance & direction of one Timothy Waters—They built a house of worship, but not being considered worthy of prosecution, declined; and in 1770 not a person of that denomination was known within the Town—Within the last 20 years this denomination has revived, and is now considerably numerous—

About the year 1745, two or three families joined the



communion of the Church of England—In 1751 the number in the whole Town was thirteen—Mr Ichabod Camp Missionary, preached to them from 1752 to 1760—Reverend Samuel Andrews succeeded him in 1762 and continued until 1787; since which time the Society has been destitute of a settled minister—In 1770 the number of families in the limits of the first Society was 63; in New Cheshire 47 and in Meriden 6—Total 116—A Church was built in Wallingford in 1758; in New Cheshire in 1760—

In 1759 a number of families belonging to the First Society, who were opposed to the settlement of Reverend James Dana, withdrew, & obtained permission to worship by themselves—The Reverend Simon Waterman was ordained their Pastor October 7th 1761—they built a Meetinghouse in 1762, & were established as a Society by the name of Welles in May 1763—These several events executed a division among the people; & were the cause of a state of discord and contention seldom exceeded in degree and duration in the history of small religious Societies—The neighboring Clergymen engaged warmly in the controversy, and the Churches assumed the character of “Churches militant,” tho’ not perhaps strictly in a scriptural sense—The details of this unhappy controversy would be tedious; and are not required either by the civil or religious interests of mankind—May they be consigned to oblivion, & with the ashes of our fathers who are at rest, sleep in peace—

Since the dismissal of Mr Waterman which was effected by mutual consent about the year 1788; the Society have supported the preaching of the gospel a considerable part of the time—Their number is greatly diminished, and the two Societies exercise towards each other, a good degree of liberality of sentiment & conduct. Those whose fathers jeoparded their lives on the high places of the field, in actual warfare; unite in the worship of the God of peace, & “scarcely know their fathers were foes”—

Separates have never been numerous—In 1770 there were in Wallingford & Meriden 10 or 12 families who worshipped by themselves—This denomination is not now

known as distinguished from the Baptists & Methodists—Of the latter denomination, the number has ever been small and their encrease is very gradual—

Religious worship has ever been supported by taxation without funds, some small donations excepted, by Presbyterians and Episcopalians; & by the Baptists & others by contribution—The salaries of the Clergymen have never exceeded 400 dollars which is the present amount—The usual sum has been £100:0:0—Of the present population, & List of the Town; the First presbyterian society comprises about one half; the Episcopal Society about one fifth; the residue compose the Welles and Baptist Societies, between which, the line of division is not very definite—

Article 25th—In April 1809 an Academy was opened; and in the summer of 1810 a convenient & handsome building was erected in a central & elevated situation by individuals who style themselves “Proprietors of Union Academy”—Their number is one hundred and twelve—their interest divided into shares of 5 dollars each; of which the largest proprietor holds only eight—The institution is under the care & instruction of one male instructor who employs a female assistant—The number of pupils is usually from 75 to 100—They are taught “Reading, writing & common Needlework @ 21 Cents p<sup>r</sup> week—Arithmetic English grammar & Geography @ 25 Cents—Composition the higher branches of needlework, Drawing, Painting, Latin & Greek languages, Logic & Moral philosophy at 33½ Cents”—The Instructor is furnished with the building rent free, and accepts the amount of Tuition as his compensation—The usual price of board is One dollar 50/100 p<sup>r</sup> week—There are nine district schools kept through the year, excepting about one month in the Spring, & the same term in the Fall; by male instructors in Winter, & female in summer—Wages of male instructors are from 15 to 18 dollars p<sup>r</sup> month including board; of female instructors, One dollar p<sup>r</sup> week exclusive of their board—The schools are supported in part by the public money appropriated by the State for that use; & partly by the interest of about 900 dollars be-



longing to the School society, being what remains of an ancient appropriation for that purpose—The deficiency is paid by the parents—Spelling, reading & writing are the branches of education usually taught in the district schools; arithmetic, grammar & geography are sometimes, though rarely introduced—Whole number of scholars in the district schools who attend in the course of the year may be considered as exceeding 500—Whole number of Scholars who have been admitted into the Academy; since its commencement is 561—

Article 27th Number of free blacks is twenty two; of whom all the adults, it is believed have been emancipated—They are not distinguished by their industry, ingenuity, or virtues from the lower classes in society; nor are they remarkably vicious—With the exception of one, who is a farmer, possessing a good Farm, and who pursues his business with industry & success; they hold in society that rank to which their unfortunate situation among white men, their superiors in numbers, education, & property; rather than the appointment of their Creator, or the benevolent wishes of the philanthropist, seems to have confined their race—

Article 28th The number of Taverns is seven—

Article 29th Climate is mild & healthy; attributable perhaps to the situation, on a warm, dry, & sandy soil, in an elevated, open & uneven country; free from marshes & swamps; distant from the cold, rough & mountainous country Northward; in the vicinity of the Sea, & exposed to the influence of the Sea air without any obstruction by hills or mountains—No disease has ever generally prevailed—The smallpox appeared in New Cheshire in March 1732—Its origin was never discovered—124 persons about one third of the whole number in that Society, had the distemper, of whom 17 died—Of the first purchasers of the town, who were five in number, one by name John Moss attained the age of 103 years; and their ages computed together amounted to 415 years; averaging 83 years—The aggregate ages of the two first pastors, and six first Deacons in the First Society amounted to 649 years, averaging to each

more than eighty one years—One of the number Deacon John Peck died in the 99th year of his age—

Article 32<sup>d</sup>—John Hall an Assistant 1740 Benjamin Hall—Assistant & Judge of Superior Court 1760 Lyman Hall Governor of State of Georgia—1790 Elihu Hall Kings Attorney 1770—Samuel W Dana Senator of United States 1810 were natives of Wallingford—

No particular vice predominates—There are no outrageous violations of civil or religious order—But an indifference, & inattention to both; arising apparently from a want of conviction of their importance is a general characteristic—

A great degree of equality prevails among the citizens in their intercourse with each other, coinciding with the actual equality of property, education & influence—This is probably a characteristic of the people of the United States generally, but peculiarly of New England—By comparing the present with the state of manners previous to the Revolution, when the wealthy and influential families copied the fashions of the mother country; and found an order of self created nobility; a material change will be perceived—This change is certainly much less the consequence of the dissolution of our connection with England and the establishment of independence; than the fruit of certain maxims & doctrines which originated in; or flowed from the French revolution; and for a time were rapidly disseminated thro' the civilized world—How far this change may be favorable to the political happiness of mankind, may be more certainly determined, when its effects shall have been more fully developed & matured—This question seems at present, to be at least problematical—A relaxed state of morals; indifference to the most valuable rights of men; diminished respect for government; a blind and fanatical devotion to the interests of a party are among its evils—Its benefits remain to be discovered—

Amusements are sought by the youth of both sexes, & by the females of mature years, in small & social afternoon & evening parties; in which it is much to be regretted that their



conversation & employments do not better coincide with the soundness of their understandings; the excellence of their hearts, & the accomplishments of their persons—Conversation is not profane, vulgar, or demoralizing; but frivolous, & uninformative; the plays of the young are not vicious, but childish; and their employments, not immoral but useless—

Of the men a large proportion possess a social & friendly disposition, and may be occasionally found enjoying the pleasures of conviviality with moderation;—a few are intemperate—many of the young and middle aged class of men, to avoid hard labor, engage in peddling, trading, & speculation of various kinds—The consequences are in many instances unfavorable to morality, individual prosperity & happiness, & the welfare of the town—The writer is far from imputing to the people of the town, of either sex generally, a defect in any useful or amiable quality; which is not equally incident to the character of the State generally; & perhaps to human nature—They are well intitled to the character of good sense, prudence, sobriety, industry & hospitality which distinguishes this illustrious State as the land of steady habits—

A Library was established by subscription in March 1791; which now contains 217 volumes—A “Society for the purpose of mutual improvement in useful knowledge” was formed in 1810—The present number of members is about Fifty—Their Meetings are held twice in each month during the Fall & Winter seasons—

Signed

GEORGE W. STANLEY

*Jeremiah Day Esquire*

*Recording Secretary*

*George W. Stanley*

*Account of Wallingford.*

*August 1, 1811*

Wallingford Decem<sup>r</sup> 9. 1812

Benjamin Silliman Esq<sup>r</sup>

Recording Secretary

Sir,

I send you for the use of the Connecticut Academy, the

following information relative to the Town of Wallingford in addition to my former letter on that subject—Nothing interesting in relation to the objects of enquiry stated in the 2d, 5th, 11th, 13th, 17th, 18th, 21st, 22d, 23d, 30th articles of the circular letter occurs to my recollection—Want of experience, & information must be my apology for the imperfect answers given to many others—

Article 3—A petrefaction of wood was discovered about 25 years since by a gentleman from whom I have the information—The stump of a tree then nearly entire exhibiting its natural form, & the marks of the axe by which the tree was cut, was found in a pasture about two miles Northerly from the Town plat—This land lies gradually descending to the west, and the soil is moist & springy—The stump lay on the surface of the ground, in a small hollow, & apparently on the spot where the tree stood—A specimen is herewith delivered—

9—The state of Agriculture is not high, but improving—No considerable improvement in Agriculture can be reasonably expected, but in proportion to the attention paid to the encrease in quantity & quality of manure—The vicinity of this town to New Haven, which affords a steady & profitable market for Hay & the comparative cheapness with which the crop may be raised & secured, are strong inducements to sell that article—And there can be no doubt that if Farmers would expend a small proportion of the avails of their Hay in making manure; a general sale would be more profitable than feeding stock & perfectly consistent with the rules of good husbandry—Indeed no method of making manure is more laborious & expensive, than the keeping of stock—The high prices of corn potatoes, and the various articles used in fattening cattle, & the convenience of carrying them to market subject the farmer to an almost certain loss in making beef except on grass—The small proportion of pasture land reduces the quantity of butter & cheese; & tho the excess of pork, beef, butter, & cheese, annually raised; beyond the consumption of the town, cannot be ascertained, it is certainly not great—The principal articles carried to market

are Hay; cornbrooms; flax & flaxseed, Rye, corn & cornmeal, oats, and potatoes—The prices are regulated by the prices at New Haven & Middletown; the difference seldom exceeds the expence of transportation—

Prices of labor of a Man are from 4/. to 6/ p<sup>r</sup> day; & from 10 to 26 dollars p<sup>r</sup> month; of a man & team from 9/ to 12/ p<sup>r</sup> day varying according to the season—No material difference exists among the several occupations—The price of land within the memory of the present generation has encreased “from 1 to 3”; about 200 p<sup>r</sup> cent\*—Rye, Indian corn oats, buckwheat, & a very small proportion of wheat; flax, potatoes & turnips are the usual crops—

The following abstract from the List of 1810 may afford a more satisfactory answer on the subjects to which they relate, than any other in my power to obtain—Whole quantity of Land nearly 20.000 acres, of which one fifth is plowland; one third is mowing land & clear pasture; and nearly one half bushy & boggy pasture, & wood Land—The last class is probably overrated—Unenclosed land does not exceed 700 acres—Horsekind above one year old 400—Oxen above four years old 427; Cows & three year olds 987; two year olds 424; Sheep 2756—

Of Rye on the Plains, from 5 to 10; and on other lands from 8 to 20 bushels an acre are the usual crops—Of Indian corn on good land, 30 bushels are considered a good crop—

10—Manures principally used are stable manure, & ashes—plaister of paris, lime, & swamp mud are used in some instances, & successfully—The high price of labor renders it difficult to introduce any general method of increasing manures—Among those least liable to this objection, & which would probably be productive of beneficial effects are— I. Confinement of swine through the year in inclosures of suitable size & construction, well supplied with straw, weeds, & other materials and piling the manure under cover when sufficiently prepared for that purpose—

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\* Wood & timber land is not included in this estimate—On this description of land; the encrease may be stated from 1 to 10—



II. Turning the water of the roads where the shape of the ground admits, by drains made large, and kept constantly open—Drains in mowing lands ought to be made wide, shallow and of a circular form; & the earth taken from the drain to be removed & spread on other land—In this form they are soon covered with grass, & form no obstruction in mowing, or making the Hay—

III. Diverting the course of brooks, & small streams & spreading them on the surface—

IV. Plowing the turf in hollows in the roads; drawing swamp mud, & mixing them with lime either of shells or stones & piling in large heaps; also mixing of different soils—

V. Stabling horses & cattle through the winter, and constructing the stables in such manner as to prevent waste of the manure, and by one operation, to clear the stables & pile the manure in heaps under cover—It is doubtful whether the practice of piling the manure of the yard, and leaving it exposed to the weather till thoroughly rotten is a judicious application of labor—The effect of manure is probably greater or less in proportion to the degree in which it is mixed with the soil—As stable manure loses more than other kinds by exposure to the weather, it ought to be put on in large quantities only, when the land is plowed; & for this purpose it is not important that it should be perfectly rotted—

Mowing lands which are unsuitable for plowing may be manured with little expence, by a light dressing of well rotted stable, or swamp manure, ashes, plaister or any other kind, which will easily mix with the soil, by harrowing the surface when the crop is off twice or three times, sowing a small quantity of grass seeds & rolling—

12 Cultivation is performed by oxen, or oxen & horses together—In some particular operations of husbandry as in plowing lands free from stone; or travelling a distance to market, horses may perform with greater celerity—But considering the various kinds of labor required in cultivating the earth; the comparative expence of breeding, purchasing

& supporting; the liability to disease, & the value of the carcase when unfit for labor; both theory & experience fully justify the preference given to the patient industry of the ox—

The enhanced price of Fencing timber of which the quantity is decreasing; ought to convince the farmer of the expediency of substituting stone—Duration security, cheapness of the materials, & improvement of the farm by clearing it of a nuisance, are strong reasons for giving a preference to the latter material—Yet as in all cases when old habits are concerned; the progress of conviction is slow; & of reformation scarcely perceptible—

26—The number of persons supported wholly, or in part by the Town, is usually about twenty who are all natives; one who is a foreigner excepted—The causes by which they were reduced to want, seem not to lie so much in the nature of their former occupations; as in the want of occupation—A degree of improvidence is perceivable in a large part of every community—The ease with which subsistence may be acquired by the young and middle aged; the long and persevering course of laborious industry necessary to arrive to wealth; the love of ease natural to man; and the hardships incident to a life of labor; induce many to waste their days of strength activity, and health in a state of indolent contentment—Their exertions are limited by the wants of the present time—“They take no thought for the morrow”—Want of economy usually accompanies indolence; the transition to intemperance is easy; and if unfortunately life is extended beyond the period of health and strength; the inevitable consequence is a poor old age—

Many salutary regulations are provided by our laws intended to prevent this crime against society—

The offenders are generally beyond the reach of amendment before the consummation of the offence; and little benefit could be expected from the example; otherwise good policy would require that those laws should be made highly penal—

To introduce economy in the management of a public



workhouse, requires more diligence, exertion, & disinterested zeal; than can be ordinarily found in those who will undertake the employment—this consideration, with the difficulty of furnishing suitable employment for a large number of persons of different ages, & sexes; wholly, or in part unable to labor; and the contingent expences incident to every public establishment; present objections to public work houses, & the collection of the poor in a body for employment & support; which independent of moral considerations; it is presumed, can be obviated only by necessity arising from their number, and the impracticability of every other mode—Where the number is small & consists generally of natives of the town, or state; they may be distributed in private families by particular contract— In this mode the Selectmen may select for each; the place most suitable for him, considered in relation to his connections, age, habits, character, ability and occupation—The pauper may be more useful to others, while his own situation is more comfortable; and many expences incident to a public establishment are avoided—partial relief may in this manner be afforded to those who deserve it; without humbling their pride & self respect; feelings not peculiar to the rich, & in which are found a strong motive to avoid a state of dependence on the public for support—These feelings seldom survive a commitment to a public work house; where little distinction is made between crime & misfortune; & where the infamy inseparable from that condition; is too often justified by the conduct & character of the occupants—

The mode of contracting for the support of the poor by public exposure to the lowest bidder, as practiced in many places is repugnant to every feeling of compassion for the unfortunate—The contractor generally undertakes for an inadequate compensation, and indemnifies himself by the privations and oppression of the unhappy being thus placed within his power—

About one half the number of the poor in this town, are disposed of annually in the mode last mentioned; the residue



are provided for by private contract—the ordinary expence annually is about eight hundred Dollars—

I am Sir very respectfully

Your friend

GEO. W. STANLEY

*George W. Stanley.*

*Additional account of Wallingford*

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